

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01590 071054Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CU-02 BIB-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
-----071421Z 053988 /46

R 070928Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6895
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL KRAKOW
AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1590

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PL
SUBJECT: POLISH EDITOR'S COMMENTS ON EASTERN EUROPEAN DISSIDENCE

1. A HIGH-RANKING POLISH EDITOR TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY THAT HE AND MANY OTHER POLES WELCOMED THE WESTERN ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO ANDREI SAKHAROV. THE SECRET HE CONTINUED, WAS TO KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE IN SUCH COMMENTARY BEFORE AROUSING DEFENSIVE MECHANISMS WHICH SHATTER ANY HOPE OF LIBERALIZATION.

2. THE EDITOR EXPLAINED THAT DISSIDENT FERMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE CLEARLY WAS THE RESULT OF THE HELSINKI DECLARATION, A DOCUMENT WHICH THE EASTERNERS HAS CLAIMED AS A "SUCCESS", BUT WHICH NOW WAS BEING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01590 071054Z

TURNED AGAINST THEM BY THEIR OWN PEOPLE. WITHOUT HELSINKI, HE SAID, NONE OF THIS CURRENT TURMOIL EVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

3. THE EDITOR NOTED THAT THE WESTERN MEDIA CONSTITUTED THE CHIEF AVENUE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DISSIDENTS AND THE REGIME. THIS WAS DESIRABLE, HE

STRESSED, BUT THE CONCENTRATION OF THE ATTENTION OF THE WESTERN MEDIA ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE DISSIDENTS TENDED TO IGNORE THE MORE IMPORTANT UNREST AMONG AVERAGE POLISH CITIZENS, WHICH WAS UNCONNECTED WITH THE HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE. SINCE THE POLISH LEADERSHIP WAS SO ATTENTIVE TO WHAT THE WESTERN MEDIA SAID, IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WESTERN JOURNALISTS DID NOT LISTEN MORE TO THE ANGRY VOICES "OF THE FACTORIES AND THE MARKETPLACE" AND REPORT THEM MORE EXTENSIVELY. IT WAS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE OTHERWISE, THE EDITOR SAID, FOR SUCH REALITIES TO PENETRATE THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. THE WESTERN MEDIA WERE THE ONLY HOPE.

4. FULL MEMCON FOLLOWS.

5. COMMENT: THAT AN OFFICIAL SO HIGH IN THE POLISH MEDIA ESTABLISHMENT WOULD LOOK APPROVINGLY ON HUMAN-RIGHTS CRITICISM BY THE WEST REFLECTS A PERVASIVE SENTIMENT AMONG EDUCATED POLES, FAVORING SOME MEASURE OF DEMOCRATICATION OF POLISH SOCIETY. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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